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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 25 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the Declaration issued by the United National and Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UNIFSA), dated 25 July 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHADI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-20355 (E) 250797

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Annex

Text of the Declaration issued by the United National and Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UNIFSA) on 25 July 1997

The United National and Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan, in conformity with its former position and that of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and in the light of the latest rapid military developments on the outskirts of the capital, Kabul, issues the following Declaration:

1. While its forces are now positioning at the gates of Kabul, the United Front calls upon the Taliban to abide by the recommendations stipulated by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the issue of the demilitarization of Kabul and announce their immediate concurrence thereupon.

2. Pending the realization of the above-mentioned conditions, the United Front would express its readiness for negotiations concerning all conflicting points including observing a ceasefire and exchange of prisoners of war (POWs). The United Front, while considering the continuation of war and hostilities contrary to the aspirations of the war-ravaged people of Afghanistan, declares its firm conviction to tackle all issues related to the conflict in Afghanistan through peaceful means, negotiations and intra-Afghan dialogue.

3. Supportive to the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the United Front once again expresses conviction in its quest for a permanent solution to the crisis in pursuit of the new initiatives aimed for referring to the will of the people. The United Front is determined to carry on every possible effort for the convening of the traditional Loya Jirga (Grand Decision Making Assembly), during a time period of no later than 6 to 9 months. For the realization of this objective, a provisional government composed of experienced, expert and independent figures will be nominated.

4. The United Front calls upon the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to help the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the convocation of a Loya Jirga and supervision of the convening process of this Great National Assembly.

5. Whereas the military events in the country have entered a determining stage, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is hereby requested to refrain from providing the Taliban any further military assistance and henceforth prepare the ground for rebuilding mutual confidence and restoring normal fraternal relations and good neighbourliness between Afghanistan and Pakistan.